



Biden hosts GOP, Dem 'good friends' seeking court support

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden hosted both parties' Senate Judiciary Committee leaders at the White House on Tuesday as Democrats worked to gain significant GOP support for his Supreme Court nominee — a steep challenge in a Senate that has been sharply and bitterly divided over the past three confirmations. He also reached out to Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, discussing the upcoming replacement of Justice Stephen Breyer by phone. At the White House, Biden called Judiciary Chairman Dick Durbin of Illinois and the top Republican on the panel, Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, "two good friends" and noted that the three of them had worked on many Supreme Court nominations together in their decades on the panel.

Continued on next page



President Joe Biden speaks during a meeting with Vice President Kamala Harris, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, the ranking member, to discuss the upcoming Supreme Court vacancy in the Oval Office of the White House, Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

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He noted that the Constitution calls for Senate "advice and consent," on a nominee, and he said, "I'm serious when I say I want the advice of the Senate as well as the consent."

As Biden mulls a replacement for Breyer — a Black woman, he has promised — Durbin has been proposing a ceasefire of sorts after wrenching partisan fights over former President Donald Trump's three nominees. The Democratic Illinois senator has been vigorously reaching out to GOP colleagues since Breyer announced last week that he will step down this summer. McConnell, the leader of Senate Republicans, emphasized in his phone conversation with Biden the importance of a nominee who believes in judicial independence and will resist



President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris meet with Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., right, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, left, the ranking member, to discuss the upcoming Supreme Court vacancy in the Oval Office of the White House, Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

efforts by politicians to bully the court or change the structure of the judicial system, a McConnell spokesman said. The meetings are an at-

tempt at détente by the president, who along with Durbin and Grassley is a veteran of a bygone era when Supreme Court justices were confirmed with

overwhelming support from both parties. Durbin called their meeting "old home week."

Senate confirmation of Biden's nominee is far from assured, as advocates push him to nominate a strong liberal and some Senate Republicans criticize the president even before he makes his decision.

At a committee meeting Tuesday morning, Grassley criticized Democratic advocates who pressured Breyer to retire, and he said nominees should be judged "solely on their qualifications." He said he told the president "that I want somebody that's going to interpret law, not make law."

Maine Sen. Susan Collins, a moderate Republican who might be the most likely GOP senator to vote for a Biden nominee, called the president's handling of the nomination so far "clumsy." Other Republicans have openly stoked a debate over Biden's promise to nominate a Black woman. Mississippi Sen. Roger Wick-er said he views the process as "affirmative action." Texas Sen. Ted Cruz said it's discriminatory because Biden is saying "wrong skin pigment and wrong Y chromosome" to white men and women.

The court was made up entirely of white men for almost two centuries. Justice Clarence Thomas and the late Thurgood Marshall are the only two Black men who have served on the court.

There has never been a Black woman.

Durbin has noted that Republican Presidents Ronald Reagan and Donald Trump both promised to pick women and were praised when they nominated Sandra Day O'Connor and Amy Coney Barrett, respectively. There have been only five female jus-

tices in U.S. history, while there have been 110 men.

"It is not uncommon for a president of the United States in filling a Supreme Court vacancy to announce in advance what type of person he wants," Durbin said Monday.

Collins is a particularly important target for Democrats. She has voted for some of Biden's lower court judges and against Barrett's nomination in 2020. Durbin called her within hours of learning that Breyer would step down, and has made clear that Democrats won't rush the confirmation, in line with her call for a deliberate process.

While Collins said Sunday that Biden had "helped politicize the entire nomination process," she also thanked Durbin for reaching out and saying he will provide whatever information she may need.

Collins said she wants "dignified hearings" and bipartisan support — but added that it depends on who the nominee is.

"The reason for us to try to get the nomination process back to the way it used to be when Supreme Court nominees were frequently confirmed overwhelmingly is the credibility of the court is at stake," she said. "If the court is perceived by the American public as a political institution, that is harmful and undermines support for its decisions."

Two other Republicans have signaled they could vote for a Biden nominee — if it is the right one. South Carolina Sens. Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott have both praised J. Michelle Childs, a federal judge who got her law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law. The White House has said Childs is under consideration.

"She has wide support in our state," Graham said Sunday on CBS. □

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Native American tribes reach \$590 million opioid settlement

By **GEOFF MULVIHILL and FELICIA FONSECA**
Associated Press

Native American tribes have reached settlements over the toll of opioids totaling \$590 million with drug-maker Johnson & Johnson and the country's three largest drug distribution companies, according to a court filing made Tuesday. The filing in U.S. District Court in Cleveland lays out the broad terms of the settlements with Johnson & Johnson and distribution companies Amerisource-Bergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson. Some details are still being hashed out.

All federally recognized tribes in the U.S. will be able to participate in the settlements, even if they did not sue over opioids. And there could be settlements between other firms in the industry and tribes, many of which have been hit hard by the overdose crisis.

W. Ron Allen, chair of the Jamestown K'Klallam Tribe in Sequim, Washington, called it a big deal for tribes to reach their own settlement, in contrast with tobacco industry deals in the 1990s that left out Native American groups.

Allen doesn't expect his tribe of about 550 people to get much from the settlement, but it will help in its efforts to build a healing center that will address opioid addiction, he said.

"Every penny counts, so we'll take it and run with it," he said.

One study cited in the settlement found that Native Americans have had the highest per capita rate of opioid overdose of any population group in 2015.

"American Indians have suffered the highest per capita rate of opioid overdose and are more likely than other group in the United States to die from drug-induced deaths," said Douglas Yankton, chair of the Spirit Lake Nation in North Dakota, in a statement. "The dollars that will flow to Tribes under this initial settlement will help fund crucial, on-reservation, culturally appropriate opioid



This June 17, 2019, file photo shows 5-mg pills of Oxycodone.

Associated Press

treatment services."

More than 400 tribes and intertribal organizations representing about 80% of tribal citizens have sued over opioids.

New Brunswick, New Jersey-based Johnson & Johnson — whose opioids included Duragesic and Nucynta but which has stopped selling opioids — said in a statement Tuesday that the settlement is not an admission of liability or wrongdoing. Cardinal, based in Columbus, Ohio, declined to comment, and the other distributors did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Under the deal, Johnson & Johnson would pay \$150 million over two years. AmerisourceBergen, based in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania; McKesson, based in Irving, Texas; and Cardinal would contribute \$440 million in total over seven years.

Each tribe could decide whether to participate but would be required to use the money to deal with the opioid epidemic.

The deal would take effect when 95% of the tribes with lawsuits against the companies agree to the settlement, said Tara Sutton, a lawyer whose firm is representing 28 tribes.

Settlements are also in the works between tribes and other companies involved in opioids, Sutton said.

The newly announced deals are separate from a

\$75 million one the Cherokee Nation and the three distribution companies reached last year ahead of a trial.

The same four companies are nearing the final stages of approval of settlements worth \$26 billion with state and local governments across the U.S. They have until later this month to decide whether enough government entities have signed on to continue in the deal.

The money for tribes will come out of the larger settlements.

The tribal settlements are part of about \$40 billion worth of settlements, penalties and fines rung up over the years by companies over their role in opioids. □

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Winter storm to bring snow, ice across wide swath of U.S.

By **PAUL J. WEBER**

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A huge swath of the U.S. braced Tuesday for a major winter storm that was expected to dump heavy snow in the Rockies, ice highways, disrupt travel across the Midwest and plunge temperatures below freezing in Texas.

Airlines had canceled more than 800 flights in the U.S. scheduled for Wednesday, the flight tracking service FlightAware.com showed, including many in St. Louis and Chicago.

The approaching blast of winter weather had many Texas residents on alert nearly a year after a catastrophic freeze that buckled the state's power grid and knocked power out for days, causing hundreds of deaths in one of the worst blackouts in U.S. history. But the forecast this week — which includes freezing rain and potentially snow around Dallas and Fort Worth — does not call for the same prolonged and frigid temperatures like the February 2021 storm.

"No one can guarantee that there won't be any" outages caused by demand on the grid, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said during a briefing in Austin, where state officials defended their readiness for the days ahead. "But what we will work to achieve, and what we're prepared to achieve is that power is going to stay on across the



City of Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation employees load a salt truck at a city salt dome in anticipation of a winter storm Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022, in Chicago.

Associated Press

entire state."

In November, Abbott had, in fact, made a guarantee ahead of winter: "I can guarantee the lights will stay on," he told Austin television station KTBC.

Abbott, whose handling of last year's blackouts is a top line of attack for Democrats as the Republican seeks a third term in 2022, said thousands of miles of roads in Texas will become "extraordinarily dangerous" over the coming days. But he said the state's power grid had enough capacity to handle the expected surge in demand this week once temperatures plummet.

"The question has always

been if we get a repeat of last year, would the power stay on? And this is nowhere near a repeat of last year," said Doug Lewin, an energy consultant in Austin who has criticized Texas' response to the blackouts as insufficient.

Winter storm watches and warnings covered a wide swath of the country from El Paso, Texas, through the Midwest and parts of the Northeast to Burlington, Vermont. The storm follows a vicious nor'easter that brought blizzard conditions to many parts of the East Coast.

Canceled flights began to mount Tuesday, with St. Louis leading the list with more

than 60% of its scheduled departures for Wednesday canceled. Chicago O'Hare International Airport canceled about 90 of its departing flights, and airports in Kansas City and Detroit were also canceling more flights than usual.

During the multiday storm this week, some areas may see a mix of rain and freezing rain before it changes to snow.

"It will be a very messy system and will make travel very difficult," said Marty Rausch, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in College Park, Maryland.

Illinois lawmakers canceled their three scheduled days

of session this week as the central part of the state prepares for heavy snow, ice and high wind gusts in the region.

The National Weather Service said 6 to 12 inches (15 to 30 centimeters) of snow was expected by Thursday morning in parts of the Rockies and Midwest, while heavy ice is likely from Texas through the Ohio Valley. On Wednesday and Thursday, the weather service said 8 to 14 inches (20 to 36 centimeters) of snow was possible in parts of Michigan, including Detroit. From Wednesday through Friday morning, 9 to 14 inches (23 to 36 centimeters) of snow was forecast in northwestern Ohio.

In Tulsa, Oklahoma, where up to 7 inches (18 centimeters) of snow and sleet are forecast but little ice, emergency management director Joe Kralicek said the event is not expected to cause large-scale power outages based on an ice index used by the National Weather Service.

"We could see some power outages, however, it's also suggesting that they be limited in scope and nature and very short term in duration," Kralicek said.

Becky Gligo, director of the nonprofit Housing Solutions in Tulsa said teams are working to move homeless people into shelters ahead of overnight lows that are expected to drop into single digits by Friday night. □



Authorities get set to tow a vehicle involved a six-car crash at the scene of a fatal crash on West Cheyenne Avenue in North Las Vegas, Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022.

Associated Press

U.S. road deaths rise at record pace as risky driving persists

By **HOPE YEN**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of U.S. traffic deaths surged in the first nine months of 2021 to 31,720, the government reported Tuesday, keeping up a record pace of increased dangerous driving during the coronavirus pandemic.

The estimated figure of people dying in motor vehicle crashes from January to September 2021 was 12% higher than the same period in 2020. That represents

the highest percentage increase over a nine-month period since the Transportation Department began recording fatal crash data in 1975.

The tally of 31,720 deaths was the highest nine-month figure since 2006.

Federal data from the department's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration showed that traffic fatalities increased during the nine-month period in 38 states, led by those in the West and South such as

Idaho, Nevada and Texas, and was flat in two states. The numbers declined in 10 states and the District of Columbia.

NHTSA also plans to move forward on rulemaking to require automatic emergency braking in all new passenger vehicles, and set new standards on car safety performance by emphasizing crash-avoidance features such as lane-keeping assistance, though no firm deadlines were set for action. □

Spain: Clergy abuse victims hopeful at signs to end impunity

By ARITZ PARRA

MADRID (AP) — After decades of neglect, victims of sexual abuse by the Spanish clergy say that they are finally seeing momentum building in their quest for real accountability and reparations.

On Tuesday, Spanish lawmakers took the first step toward opening a parliamentary inquiry on the issue, a move that victims hail as a potential game-changer. Prosecutors are also stepping up efforts to dig deeper into existing and new allegations. And Spain's left-to-center government is gauging whether to back the parliamentary probe or to launch another independent effort.

"It looks like as if public institutions have finally realized that the raping of children is of general interest, a grave violation of human rights and that the state should intervene," said Miguel Hurtado, who has campaigned against impunity since disclosing his own account of being abused at a monastery in northeastern Spain.

"We can't say we are happy until we see results, but this is a very hopeful moment for those of us fighting to be noticed for years," said Fer-



Miguel Hurtado, who has campaigned against impunity since disclosing his own account of being abused at a monastery in northeastern Spain, poses for a picture in front of a Spanish parliament in Madrid, Spain, Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022.

nando García Salmones, spokesman of the Robbed Childhood Association of sexual abuse victims.

García Salmones, who is among the few victims who have received compensation from a religious order, said that the question is no longer whether Spain should investigate the abuses. The debate, he said, has shifted: "Now it's more about how to do it,

and who should do it."

The stacking up of different initiatives comes after Spain's leading newspaper, El País, documented at least 611 cases of abuses perpetrated by priests, members of religious orders and people working for them over several decades, involving at least 1,246 victims.

In late December, the paper shared a list including

some of the abuses it had found with Pope Francis, who has tried to sensitize the church to the problem of clergy abuse and passed laws to hold the hierarchy accountable for covering it up.

The Vatican hasn't publicly responded to the El País reports or the database. Previously, it has commented after independent reports have produced their find-

ings.

But Spanish media have reported that the pope breached the topic during a meeting last month with emissaries of the Spanish Episcopal Conference.

The body representing the bishops of all Spain has rejected opening up a comprehensive investigation and instead encourages victims to come forward and report their allegations to offices that it has set up in each of the country's dioceses.

"The only ones missing in this latest wave of efforts are the Spanish bishops, who should step aside and refrain from obstructing efforts to investigate," said Hurtado, adding that the Catholic Church in Spain should open up its archives and be ready to financially compensate victims.

"Politicians should pass laws to make sure that bishops go to jail if they covered up abuse cases," he added.

El País has reported that only nine of Spain's 31 dioceses have reached out to the newsroom or directly to some of the victims in the paper's investigation.

The Episcopal Conference declined to comment on the latest moves to investigate the abuse. □

Associated Press

New U.S. envoy to Japan vows support amid regional tensions

By MARI YAMAGUCHI and HARUKA NUGA

TOKYO (AP) — Washington is "fully committed" to working with Japan to confront growing regional tensions, the new U.S. ambassador to Tokyo, Rahm Emanuel, said Tuesday.

Emanuel was speaking at a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, where the two discussed issues including North Korea's missile advancement and China's increasingly assertive actions in the Asia Pacific.

"The United States is fully committed to working with Japan as a full ally to counter the challenges and to really realizing our shared vision for a truly free and open Indo-Pacific," said Emanuel.

The American envoy criticized China's use of "coercion, intimidation and disinformation" as its influence rises in the region.

Emanuel arrived in Tokyo in late January, amid escalating North Korean missile tests.

"North Korea is testing missile capabilities, testing regional stability and testing the global community's patience," he said.

North Korea on Monday said it test-launched the day before an intermediate-range ballistic missile capable of reaching the U.S. territory of Guam, the North's most significant weapon launch in years, as Washington has vowed support for its Asian allies.

Emanuel also called Russia's amassing of military

force along the Ukraine border "a clear and consequential threat to peace, security and a rules-based system."

Hayashi said he hoped to "develop a relationship in which we can have candid discussions so that we can further strengthen our alliance."

Emanuel's ambassadorship to Japan will become official after he presents his credentials to Emperor Naruhito in a palace ceremony. Afterwards he is expected to meet with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Japanese media reported.

Emanuel is a former three-term congressman who served as Barack Obama's first White House chief of staff and was a senior adviser in Bill Clinton's admin-



Japan's Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, right, fist bumps with new U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel during a meeting in Tokyo on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022.

Associated Press

istration.

Emanuel arrived in Japan to assume the post at a moment when President Joe Biden is trying to increase focus on the Indo-Pacific and strengthen the

U.S.-Japan partnership.

The post of U.S. ambassador to Japan was vacant for more than two years after William Hagerty left in July 2019 to run for the Senate. □

U.S. military fired missiles during Yemen Houthi attack on UAE

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The U.S. military

launched interceptor missiles during an attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels that targeted the United Arab Emirates during a visit by Israel's president, the second-such time American troops have opened fire, officials said.

The acknowledgement by the White House and Pentagon late Monday represent a widening American involvement in Yemen's yearslong war, a conflict that President Joe Biden declared nearly a year ago "has to end."

While the U.S. has ended offensive support to the Saudi-led coalition fighting on behalf of Yemen's exiled government, their involvement in defending the UAE comes as the rebel Houthis have declared Al-Dhafra Air Base in Abu Dhabi a target. Al-Dhafra hosts some 2,000 American troops and has served as a major base of operations for everything from armed drones to F-35 stealth fighters.

Speaking from the White House, press secretary Jen Psaki said the U.S. military "responded to an inbound missile threat on the UAE."

"This involved the employment of Patriot interceptors to ... (support) efforts by the



In this photo released by the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army Spc. Scottlin Bartlett of the 5-52 Air Defense Artillery Battalion signals to a colleague while working near a Patriot missile battery at Al-Dhafra Air Base in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, May 5, 2021.

Associated Press

armed forces of the UAE," Psaki said. "I would say we are working quite closely with them."

At the Pentagon, press secretary John Kirby said that "U.S. Patriots were fired, but it was the Emirati surface-to-air missiles that actually engaged the targets."

Asked if that would include targets outside of Al-Dhafra, Kirby said: "If we can help defend our Emirati partners, we're going to do that."

Biden also mentioned the attack on the UAE at the White House during a visit by Qatar's ruling emir,

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, saying that "America will have the backs of our friends in the region."

The Emirati military, as with a similar attack last week, did not acknowledge that the American military opened fire.

The autocratic UAE, a fed-

eration of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula, has threatened criminal charges against anyone filming an attack or outgoing interceptor fire. The UAE's state-run WAM news agency reported Monday's interception, saying "the attack did not result in any losses, as the remnants of the ballistic missile fell outside the populated areas." It wasn't immediately clear where the remnants fell, though American Patriot missiles are thought only to be deployed at Al-Dhafra.

The attack came just before Israeli President Isaac Herzog's visit to Dubai Expo 2020.

A Jan. 17 attack on Abu Dhabi by the Houthis killed three people and wounded six at an Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. fuel depot near Al-Dhafra.

The war in Yemen has become the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Saudi-led airstrikes using American-made bombs have killed schoolchildren and civilians. The UAE paid off local al-Qaida fighters to avoid fighting and controlled prisons where torture and sexual abuse were rampant. Meanwhile, Yemen's Houthi rebels have employ child soldiers and indiscriminately laid landmines during the country's civil war. □

Heavy gunfire heard near Guinea-Bissau's Government Palace



President of Guinea-Bissau Umaro Sissoco Embalo arrives for a dinner at the Elysee Palace as part of the Paris Peace Forum, in Paris, Nov. 11, 2021.

Associated Press

By VAGNER BARBOSA

BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau (AP) — Heavy gunfire erupted

Tuesday near the Govern-

ment Palace in Guinea-Bissau's capital, witnesses said, raising fears of a coup attempt in this West African

country with a long history of military takeovers.

The state broadcaster has reported that the shooting has damaged the government building and that "invaders" are holding officials.

President Umaro Sissoco Embalo, a former army general, was believed to be inside the building at the time of the attack.

The 15-nation West African regional bloc known as ECOWAS, already grappling with three other coups in member states over the last 18 months, called Tuesday's violence a coup attempt and said it is following the situation in Bissau "with great concern."

"ECOWAS condemns this coup attempt and holds the military responsible for the bodily integrity of President Umaro Sissoco Embalo and the members of his government," the statement said in a tweet.

Embalo was declared the winner of the December 2019 runoff vote, though the results were contested by his opponent, Domingos Simoes Pereira. Embalo then started forming a new government with support from the military while a Supreme Court election challenge was still pending.

Since gaining independence from Portugal in 1974, Guinea-Bissau has experienced four coup

d'etats and more than a dozen attempted coups.

The small nation of around 1.5 million people, has long been beset by corruption and drug trafficking. In the 2000s, it became known as a transit point for cocaine between Latin America and Europe as traffickers profited from corruption and weak law enforcement.

West Africa has seen a spate of coups since August 2020, with military juntas grabbing power in Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso. Despite international pressure for a return to constitutional rule, none of the military rulers have yet to organize new elections. □



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Journalist slain at interview -- Mexico's 4th this month

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A journalist with an online news outlet was preparing to record a video interview Monday when he was shot by assailants, becoming the fourth journalist killed in less than a month in Mexico, the outlet's director said.

Roberto Toledo had just arrived at the law offices of the deputy director of the outlet, Monitor Michoacan, when three armed men shot him, said Monitor director Armando Linares, who had also planned to be there.

"Twenty minutes before I had told him by phone that we were going to meet at the office to interview a person," Linares said. "I got held up a little and he arrives before I do, goes in, closes the door, but almost immediately they rang."

Prosecutors in the western state of Michoacan said they were investigating the case in the city of Zitacuaro. The Michoacan State Attorney's Office said in a statement that Toledo died from his wounds at a hospital.

Toledo recorded video stories and had been working for Monitor Michoacan for two years, Linares said.

Linares painted a delicate landscape of risky reporting. His outlet was covering sensitive issues: three Indigenous communities are working toward self-government; organized crime is active in the area; and there is illegal logging and corruption in local government.

He said in a video message announcing the death earlier Monday that the website had received threats for reporting on governmental corruption.

"For exposing corrupt administrations and corrupt officials and politicians, to-



A woman posts photos of murdered journalists during a national protest against the murder of journalists Lourdes Maldonado and freelance photojournalist Margarito Martínez, in Mexico City, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022.

Associated Press

day that led to the death of one of our colleagues," Linares said.

"The Monitor Michoacán team has suffered weeks, months of death threats. We know where all of this comes from," Linares added, though he did not identify those he thought responsible.

Linares said he was now receiving protection from the National Guard.

Jan-Albert Hootsen, the Mexico representative for the Committee to Protect Journalists, said Toledo worked as a camera operator and video editor for Monitor Michoacan.

"We are classifying him as a media worker or press worker," Hootsen said.

Toledo was filming a new video column by Monitor Michoacan's deputy director, Joel Vera, a local lawyer, at Vera's office when the gunmen arrived, Hootsen said.

Jesús Ramírez, spokesman for President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, said via

Twitter that the administration condemned Toledo's killing. "We will work together with the state and municipal governments to clear up the case," Ramírez wrote. "We will not allow impunity. We defend freedom of expression and the right to information."

In a subsequent message, Ramírez said the initial investigation suggested Toledo worked in a legal office not as a journalist.

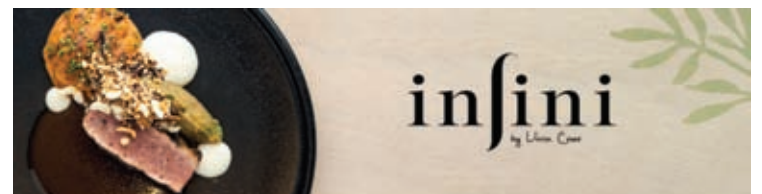
The National Academy of Radio and Television Journalists said in a statement that Toledo and other members of the Monitor Michoacan staff had denounced aggression and death threats connected to their work.

Toledo was enrolled in the federal government's protection system for journalists and human rights defenders known as "el mecanismo" or mechanism, the academy said. It did not say what sort of protection Toledo had received. It can range from

carrying a panic button to alert authorities in case of emergency to surveillance cameras installed around a home or even bodyguards. Linares, however, said that he did not think Toledo was enrolled in any protection system. He said the outlet's deputy director did receive protection.

The unprecedented spate of killings has put reporters on edge across Mexico, and sparked protests earlier this month. The government says over 50 journalists have been slain in Mexico since December 2018.

In the border city of Tijuana, two journalists were killed in the space of a week. On Jan. 17, crime photographer Margarito Martínez was gunned down outside his home. □



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Over a decade in business, Aruba Living Today: Offering the so much needed human touch

NOORD — We are quickly approaching 2022. It's been a wild ride with Covid-19 and we all are aiming for a change of routine. We simply want to "live" life again. "It is time for living your dream," as the quote says at Aruba Living Today's office. "We are ten plus years in business, and I am proud to say that all our clients stuck with us. We are no part of a big company, we keep it small, personal, and real. Because you are not a number, no sales target either and certainly your name is not commission. Our responsibility is to make your dream come true," says owner Randolph Arends.

Tempting times

Do you remember the feeling as a kid, when you went to the store with your mom and the baker gave you a sweet roll, the butcher a slice of ham and they all took time to talk to each other? That time when doing groceries on a Saturday meant fun, making friends, and creating connections. To be fully aware in the moment and enjoying the time together sounds like a controversy today. Everything is efficient, there's no-time-to-waste and while doing one task the mind is already thinking ahead to what is next on your to-do list.

Did Covid-19 teach us anything? Weren't we telling each other during the lockdown that we would pay more attention to each other? Wasn't the message that health and happiness is so much more valuable than hitting targets and implement to-do tasks? The pandemic prevents us from connecting physically. Tight hugs and shaking hands firmly are no longer a natural thing. We live in a world of face masks hides smiles, and hands are sanitized after each touch. This is not who we are. We are in search for connection.

From human to human

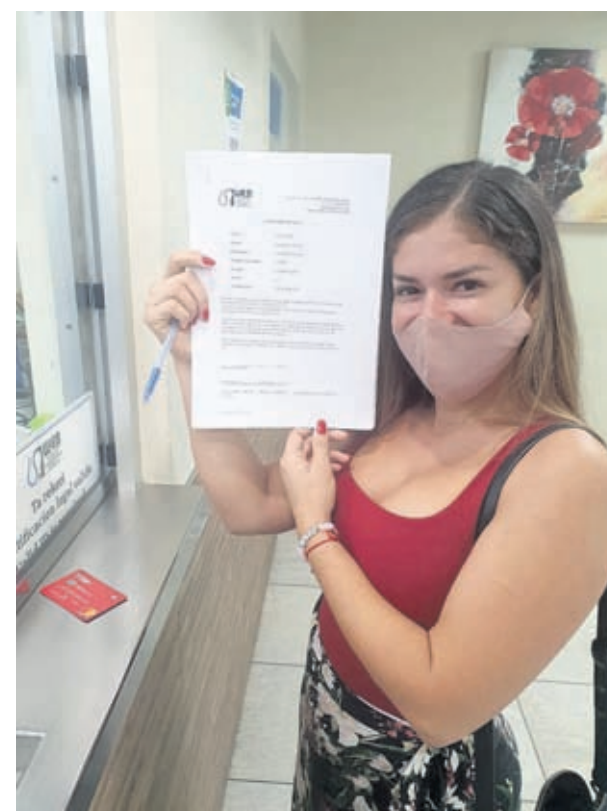
If you have decided to buy a house or rent one for vacation in Aruba and you are look-



ing for that match, the question now is how to click with a person that offers a personal touch? One who pays genuine attention and has sincere interest in what you want? This different approach to real estate is what sets Aruba Living Today apart, and the reason Randolph calls himself a property mediator instead of a real estate broker. "The personal touch is essential to me. I am stepping aside of the image that real estate brokers are only in for the commission. This image does not fit me at all, I am in for my passion, and I can only do this from the heart."

One stop shopping point

Services offered by Aruba Living Today are House and Land Sales, Rentals, Investments, Property Management, Vacation Rental, Mortgages, Insurances, Maintenance, Assist in Arrangements for Notary and Utilities, Guiding Bureaucracy Process and Assisting in Import of Furniture. Randolph and his business partner Berend Prenger are a fantastic, experienced duo, each of them specialists in the field. Berend is also a certified appraiser within the Dutch Kingdom meaning he does your appraisal report that is accepted by all banks and he delivers within three days. "This definitely speeds up the process of buying," Prenger adds.



You are welcome to meet in person

Aruba Living Today houses in an authentic Aruban house, welcoming you in a warm ambiance that emphasizes the philosophy of connecting. Candles, Buddha ornaments and a homey setting form the décor for you to sit and talk about your dream house or investment. "My goal was to do real estate in a different way when I established this company June 1st 2009. Not from the perspective of only selling, but to look for the perfect match between dream house and client. My philosophy is: it will only work when all involved are happy and connected by that personal touch."

Aruba Living Today caters for both local and foreign market divided into 40 % local buyers and 60 % foreign buyers. "Our customers come from Holland, Belgium, Norway, Germany, UK, Russia, Latin America, United States and Canada. We are widely covered and thus provable good with different cultures, also we speak four languages." Besides that, Aruba Living Today is open to every budget, they have listings for all category buyers. As a member of the Aruban Real Estate Association, they are listed also on the website www.arubalisting.com within a group of 20 of the most advanced realtors on the island. Aruba Living Today is featured on House Hunters, social media, Aruba Living Today and of course in Aruba Today's newspaper. □

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UNICEF will continue to provide technical support to Aruba for child protection

ORANJESTAD - Last week, the "Nationale Postcode Loterij" (National Postcode Lottery) of the Netherlands, indicated that the subsidy requested by UNICEF NL was approved.

The request was approved after the successful screening last year.

UNICEF NL will work in collaboration with the Ministries of Aruba and Curacao to fortify the child protection system, especially in these times. It is essential to provide this support to these islands, especially

after the social-economic impact caused by the pandemic.

The financial support is 2.3 million Euros and is destined for some already defined projects in Aruba and Curacao in collaboration and agreement between Aruba and the Netherlands.

Professionals of Aruba and Curacao will work together to help protect the children while structurally improving and optimizing the system. The objective of this system is to have the children grow up in a secure environment without violence while

providing them all the opportunities to develop optimally and show their talent without restrictions.

The themes and goals of the NPL are to create a base for the "Padlet-Needs Assessment", as indicated last year by the professionals. Planning of the activities for Aruba for the period 2022-2024 will start in collaboration with these professionals, as approved by the NPL and European Commission. All of this is under strict supervision based on the goals, and UNICEF NL will provide technical



support throughout the entire process.

The four areas of focus are:

1. Early detection / Protection Code;
2. positive Upbringing;
3. juvenile participation;

4. stimulate inter-institutional collaboration to prevent child abuse.

Soon the brainstorming sessions with the professionals will start, all for the benefit of the children in Aruba. □

Fundashon Stimami Sterilisami;
Kick-off sterilization campaign of dogs and cats for 2022

ORANJESTAD — Fundashon Stimami Sterilisami announces the kick-off of its new spay and neuter program for 2022 in partnership with VSH Veterinary Specialty Hospital. The foundation intends to reduce the population of dogs and cats by means of spay & neutering on Aruba, offering subsidized surgeries to all.

This program was initiated, and mainly sponsored, by Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, supported by the Aruba Tourism Authority, Aruba Bank, Setar N.V., Mr. Ewald Biemans CEO of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, guest of the resort and local residents. With the help of Ellen Sirianni



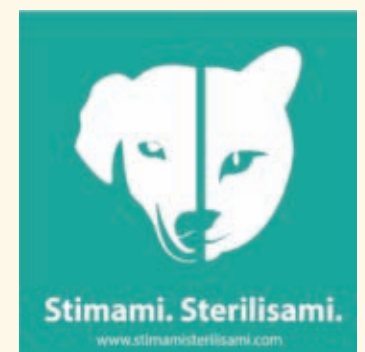
and Berkley Cameron they managed to close an agreement with VSH to help reduce the costs of surgery up to 66% for the general public and other non-profit organizations.

The costs for surgery is: Female dog: Afl 210, Male Dog Afl 130, Female Cat 110, Male Cat Afl 65. Antibiotics, anti inflammatory and anesthesia are included in the price. Sterilization

is the most effective and compassionate method to reduce the numbers of stray dogs and cats. Without sterilization a cat is able to give birth to 62 kittens in a year and dogs up to 28 puppies, this will make all the hard work this foundation has been doing throughout the years in vain. With this the foundation aims to eliminate the suffering of dogs and cats, improve the quality of life

for our local residents and to improve the image of our island in the eyes of our visitors and prevent for these animals to be sent to the kill cage. Between 2016 – 2021 the foundation managed to sterilize 27,724 dogs and cats, even though it's a great achievement there is still more to be done.

Dogs and cats need to be registered online at: www.stimamisterilisami.com and need to be at least 6 months to do the surgery. Fundashon Stimami Sterilisami is a non-profit organization that uses 100% of its donations to offer partial or full subsidy for the sterilization procedure for house pets and strayed



pets. Donations are extremely important for this foundation in order to continue its purpose.

For more information go to www.stimamisterilisami.com. □

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ISLAND INSIGHT

Article by Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels

Respect & Solidarity

Our goal at Etnia Nativa is to raise cultural awareness, promoting education and to safeguard our heritage as the sacred mother seed for renewal and reinvention, guiding you to become the next and a new guardian of Aruba.

A happy island needs each visitor to get involved in tourist activities where what is prioritized is respect for the natural, cultural and social environment to define and understand the values of our community. With this type of tourism there is a positive exchange of experiences between visitors and residents, establishing a fair and equitable relationship in terms of the benefits that this activity can generate.

In Aruba, more and more people are aware and concerned about environmental issues and the tourism market is also beginning to realize the negative impact on the environment generated by unsustainable tourist activities. Our society is becoming increasingly aware of the need to preserve our flora, fauna, soil and sea and heritage. In recent times, different environmental defense groups have emerged that exert pressure on public opinion in relation to the effects of tourist activities with the sole purpose to generate revenue regardless of the environmental impact it is causing.

Our small beautiful island, like the entire planet Earth, is going through a decisive moment and our tourism in general should be governed by the principles of sustainability, in order to minimize the impact on the environment and local culture.

To achieve this and generate benefits for the local population, we need our tourism to be aware of the existing socio-political reality.

Aruba and the planet need responsible and supportive tourism and all types of tourism should currently aspire to this responsibility and solidarity, but the current reality of tourism has little to do with these objectives we are advocating for.

Visitors are no longer satisfied with little and that makes



the demand for product quality and services higher. As a consequence, it requires a greater effort to remain competitive in the market. So our officials should roll their sleeves and put heads together in order to mitigate all economic endeavors which cause negative impacts to the environment and the inhabitants of Aruba as on pristine destination.

The European Alliance for Responsible Tourism and Hospitality (EARTH) project defines Responsible Tourism as: "Any specific tourism product or tourism production system in which tourists, actors and local providers assume responsibility for host destinations from the start, involving environmental, cultural, social and economic viability point of view.

Aruba needs to raise awareness of its still unfathomable assets that could be lost without even knowing they exist. It is in the hands of its inhabitants to request legislative protection, safeguards and guaranteed protection of the existence of our ecosystem for our next generation and our future visitors.

As locals we must involve each visitor in the Aruba experience, share with them our reality and our concern.

Etnia Nativa is a small recycled building that has beautiful gardens and occupies an area of 880 m2 in Westpunt. Ten years ago it was surrounded by land of wild vegetation and inhabited by a diverse and varied fauna. Today, as a result of the excessive housing growth in the area, our home museum and sanctuary houses different species in danger of extinction as a natural sanctuary for: hummingbirds, doves, chuchubi; trupial; pecho gel, bats, lizards, totekis, geccos, crabs, beetles, mantis, santaneros, spiders. They are our daily dwellers and endemic fauna, even the invasive boa and the cane toad are casual visitors we wish no to see. On picture below, is our dreaded centipede who loves to scavenge and wander around for small insects, frogs and small rodents that lives

Episode CXL - 140



under rocks boulders that are part of our garden. however we must be vigilant since occasionally we must prevent them going inside. We catch them on a shovel or in a carton box and transport them to safer place.

In our gallery art we also display historical as well as native Aruban art and artifacts. Follow our guided tours conducted by its founder and curator, incorporating works of art, archaeological objects, tools and weapons to tell the story of Aruba. Discover nature and island culture, through an educational and mind-opening session for the curious and bohemian soul, the adventurous spirit and those interested in acquiring island knowledge. Interact and get infected with a good predisposition to share our concern for preserving your fragile travel destination. □

Did you say that you love Aruba its origins and cultural heritage? Than this private encounter with our columnist anthropologist is just as you. Sessions created in a gorgeous setting for visitor with special interests. Appointment is required. etnianativa03@gmail.com or Whatsapp us 297 592 2702 for a private reservation.

Millennial Money: How to get what you want at your next job

By **AMRITA JAYAKUMAR** of **NerdWallet**

Millennials have long been at the mercy of economic events, from the Great Recession to crushing levels of student loan debt. But thanks to the Great Resignation that began in 2021, this generation is experiencing its first brush with power and opportunity in the job market.

Millennials are midcareer and have more negotiating power than their early days, says Carlota Zimmerman, who runs her own namesake career coaching firm in New York City. That plus a hot job market — some 10.6 million open positions as of November 2021, per the latest report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics — is why exploring your career options right now is a smart move.

Before you start polishing your resume, here are tips from career coaches on being strategic with your job search, preparing for negotiations and asking for what you want.

GET CLARITY ON YOUR GOALS

You might be ready for a change, but that doesn't mean you should start applying for jobs right away. Be clear about what you want before you start searching, Zimmerman says. List the pros and cons of your current job. What



A hiring sign is placed at a booth for prospective employers during a job fair Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021, in the West Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

gave you satisfaction? What didn't? This exercise will help you get a better idea of what you want the next job to look like, she says. Next, drill down on the areas you identified.

Say you've realized you want more flexibility or a better work-life balance in a new role. Define what that looks like, says Dana Theus, executive coach at InPower Coaching in Alexandria, Virginia. Flexibility could mean working non-traditional hours, working remotely, coming into the office a couple of days a

week or something else.

After you've fleshed out your goals, turn to job boards to research what people are recruiting for, Theus says. Write down the parts of a job description that match your goals and gradually build your ideal job profile. You may not find the ideal job, but this will give you the confidence to articulate what you're looking for to people in your professional network as well as during negotiations, she says.

GET INTO THE NEGOTIATION HEADSPACE

Before entering a negotiation, know which terms you're willing to discuss and which ones are absolutely off the table, Zimmerman says. "You have to have the courage to believe that what's important to you is important to your company. If it's not, then you're going to need to find another company."

Identify your nonnegotiables, Zimmerman suggests, by asking yourself questions like:

— Am I willing to take a lower salary if it means I could have more days to

work from home?

— Would I be OK taking fewer vacation days if I could have a flexible weekly schedule?

Write your answers on index cards that you can keep handy during interviews, she says.

And before negotiations, silence your inner critic.

Karen Chopra, a career counselor at ChopraCareers in Washington, D.C., says women are more likely to negotiate with themselves on jobs and compensation. "Don't go for what you think you can get," she says. "Go for what you want."

Do your research on compensation by talking to people in your network and on websites such as Glassdoor. Chopra advises women to build a broad and diverse network for a better idea of salaries. "You have to be asking everyone not what they make, but what is the range for the position that you are looking for," she says.

PLAN YOUR TALKING POINTS

When you're going through the interview process, virtually or in person, here are tips to keep in mind:

BRING UP YOUR TERMS EARLY. Don't wait until the final interview to bring up your must-haves, says Zimmerman. You can approach the subject as early as your first call with a recruiter. □

New York Times buys viral word game Wordle

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times said on Monday that it has bought Wordle, the free online word game that has exploded in popularity and, for some, become a daily obsession. It listed the purchase price as being in the "low-seven figures," but did not disclose specifics.

The Times, which has popular word games like Spelling Bee and its crossword puzzle, said "at the time it moves to The New York Times, Wordle will be free to play for new and existing players, and no changes will be made to its gameplay."

Wordle was created by Josh Wardle, a Brooklyn software engineer. He originally made it for his partner, but released it to the public in October. On Nov. 1, only 90 people had played it. Within two months, that number had grown to 300,000 after people began sharing their scores on social media. Now, the simple puzzle that lets players guess a five-letter word in six tries with no hints, has millions of daily players, The Times said. It's also become a viral online phenomenon, spurring copycats like "Airportle," where you guess

airport abbreviations, and "Queertle," with words for the queer community.

To play Wordle now, you have to visit its website. Simply type in a five-letter word. If any letters turn green, you got the right letter in the right place. Yellow letters mean right letter wrong place and gray letters mean they are not in the word of the day. Wordle's appeal has been in part due to its simplicity, no bells and whistles or ads or asking for your email address to play — just a website with 30 blank squares and a keyboard. Some apps have tried to piggy-



A sign for The New York Times hangs above the entrance to its building, Thursday, May 6, 2021 in New York.

Associated Press

back on its success, confusing people who downloaded — or even paid

for — apps on their phone thinking it's the original Wordle. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 45 Gets older

1 Nervous

5 Different

11 Makeshift swing

12 Half an MTV cartoon pair

13 State frankly

14 Young hooters

15 Letter after sigma

16 Indian prince

17 "Swell!"

19 Ring feature

22 Rectangle measure

24 River boat

26 Scoop

27 Marshy spots

28 Crumpet's cousin

30 Luxurious

31 Crone

32 Hive head

34 Obsessed group

35 Female rabbit

38 Tilted type

41 Sailor's cry

42 Cyrano's love

43 Catch some z's

44 Quarter-back play

DOWN

1 Coup d'—

2 Singing star

3 Visibility reducer

4 Wood used for bows

5 German sub

6 Unhappy employee's quest

7 Refrain bit

8 "— had it!"

9 Young fox

10 Snaky shape

16 Cheering cry



Yesterday's answer

18 School near Windsor

19 February 2 VIP

20 Quiche base

21 Interlace

22 Desire

23 Cuzco native

25 Skilled

29 Horsey

30 Sulky state

33 Peptic problem

34 Thunder sound

36 Move like molasses

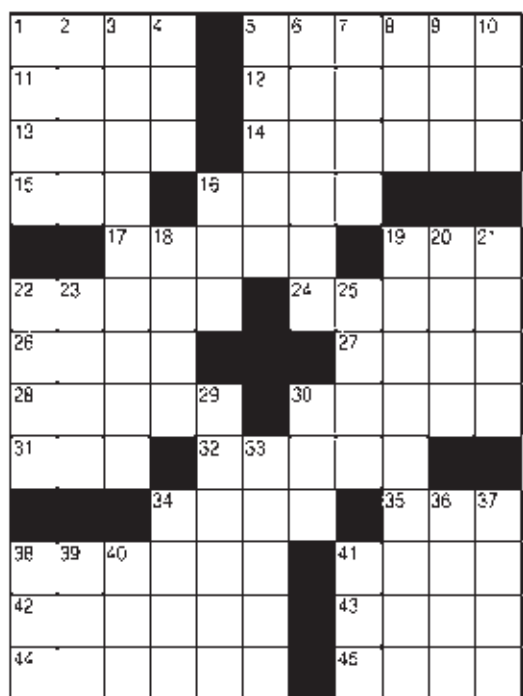
37 Peepers

38 Tick off

39 Bunion spot

40 Forest tool

41 Nabokov novel



2-2

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-2 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

AHQNPUPP AHSWKUOQPN ON

PYJ WHHDJNP NHDP HC WUX

CHD UKK PYJ AHSCHDPN FJ

JQLHX — GJQLUSOQ

CDUQRKQOQ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ONE WHO BUYS NEEDS ONE HUNDRED EYES; ONE IS ENOUGH FOR HIM WHO SELLS. — GERMAN PROVERB

Tesla recall: 'Full Self-Driving' software runs stop signs



A 2021 Model 3 sedan sits in a near-empty lot at a Tesla dealership in Littleton, Colo. June 27, 2021.

Associated Press

By TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Tesla is recalling nearly 54,000 cars and SUVs because their "Full Self-Driving" software lets them roll through stop signs without coming to a complete halt.

Recall documents posted Tuesday by U.S. safety regulators say that Tesla will disable the feature with an over-the-internet software update. The "rolling stop" feature allows vehicles to go through intersections with all-way stop signs at up to 5.6 miles (9 kilometers) per hour.

The recall shows that Tesla programmed its vehicles to violate the law in most states, where police will ticket drivers for disregarding stop signs. The Governors Highway Safety Association, which represents state highway safety offices, said it is not aware of any state where a rolling stop is legal.

Tesla agreed to the recall after two meetings with officials from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, according to documents.

Tesla said in documents that it knows of no crashes

or injuries caused by feature.

The recall covers Model S sedans and X SUVs from 2016 through 2022, as well as 2017 to 2022 Model 3 sedans and 2020 through 2022 Model Y SUVs.

Selected Tesla drivers are "beta testing" the "Full Self-Driving" software on public roads. The company says the cars cannot drive themselves and drivers must be ready to take action at all times.

A firmware release to disable the rolling stops is expected to be sent out in early February.

Tesla, which disbanded its media relations department, did not comment Tuesday.

NHTSA says failing to stop for a sign can increase the risk of a crash. "The Vehicle Safety Act prohibits manufacturers from selling vehicles with defects posing unreasonable risks to safety, including intentional design choices that are unsafe," the agency said. "If the information shows that a safety risk may exist, NHTSA will act immediately."

Tesla introduced the "rolling stop" feature in a software update that was sent out

to the testing owners on Oct. 20, 2020. NHTSA met with Tesla on Jan. 10 and 19 this year to discuss how the software operates, the documents said. On Jan. 20, the company agreed to disable the rolling stops with the software update. The "rolling stop" feature let the Teslas go through all-way stop signs as long as the owner enabled the function. □



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WK 52 Oceanside \$55,000
WK 7 and 14 - all views

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2 Bed Garden view \$6,000
3 Bed Ocean view \$13,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON

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2 Bed Ocean view \$18,000
1 Bed ocean front \$13,000
1 Bed ocean View \$11,000

GOLD SEASON

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2 Bed Ocean view \$9,500
1 Bed oceanfront \$9,000
1 Bed ocean View \$6,500

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Week 13/1509 (13k);
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Netflix documentary 'Procession's' life beyond the film

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

Filmmaker Robert Greene knows well the burden of responsibility in making a documentary. It's not just to the film itself, the audience or the storytelling. It's the responsibility to the subjects in front of the camera. And in "Procession" the subjects were six men who decades ago were sexually abused by Roman Catholic priests and clergy.

"I don't know that documentaries change the world, but I do know that they change the lives of the people on screen," Greene said. "This is my seventh and I know how it can affect positively and negatively. If you have that knowledge, you have to build on it. You have to do something with that. And that's what this project is."

There were a lot of ideas that had been circling in Greene's head by the time he saw a press conference on the news with four survivors and their lawyer in Kansas City that would ultimately inspire the project. A lifetime student of documentary, Greene was thinking about our evolving relationship with cameras, the point of making films at all anymore and whether or not they could actually be used to help people. He'd recently read the book



This image released by Netflix shows, from left, Joe Eldred, Ed Gavagan, Michael Sandridge, Tom Viviano, Dan Laurine and Mike Foreman from the documentary "Procession."

Associated Press

"The Body Keeps the Score" and was introduced to the idea of drama therapy.

So, Greene decided to call the lawyer he saw on television, Rebecca Randles, to start a conversation about exploring their story through drama therapy.

"It wasn't about going to the guys and being like, 'Tell me how I can help you, or something ridiculous like that,'" Greene said. "It was, 'Rebecca, tell us why this is not a good idea.' But she didn't say that."

It began a three-year process in which survivors Joe Eldred, Mike Foreman, Ed Gavagan, Dan Laurine, Michael Sandridge and Tom Viviano came together and with the help of drama

therapist Monica Phinney created and performed scenes inspired by their memories. Greene was prepared to stop at any moment, if it got too hard for the men, or seemed to be doing more harm than good. But they always found good reasons to continue. Since its premiere at the Telluride Film Festival, "Procession" has received near-universal acclaim, played to many standing ovations and has even been shortlisted for a best documentary Oscar nomination. And the response since it hit Netflix has been overwhelming for everyone involved, with family members, friends, strangers and survivors all reaching out to

express support or tell their stories.

"The guys have even had to modulate it a little bit," Greene said. "This is a film that I genuinely do not think could have been made five years ago. I think what we're experiencing with all of the reach out from other survivors who've seen this film is just this idea of 'Oh my God, you can hold it like this.' These are six very different men, but they're men, you know? And they're fearful and they're holding each other and they're expressing love and brotherhood in a way that is unusual. And I think it's very inspiring."

Early on in the process, Greene sat around in a

circle with the men and promised that they would work hard to find the right audience. The point of doing these exercises on camera was to help other survivors after all.

"So much of these guys' lives are dictated by shame. It can be debilitating," Greene said. "So to see the guys walking out in front of the Metrograph Theater and then a full crowd stands up and gives them a standing ovation? I mean, how many times in my life have I been cynical about the idea of a standing ovation after a documentary? Many, many times. And yet we embrace it instead of being cynical about it. We embrace the beauty of it and the love. That was transformative for those guys to be validated and say, 'Look, you did good and well and what you are is not your worst moment. What you are is not what happened to you. You were not damaged goods. You are not permanently destroyed. You have turned this awful, awful poison into medicine.'"

"We promised them that we would try our hardest and then that kind of validation," Greene added. "I am a deeply flawed human being. But I did not let them down in this regard. We didn't let them down." □

Rachel Maddow taking hiatus from MSNBC show until April



MSNBC television anchor Rachel Maddow, host of the Rachel Maddow Show, moderates a panel on Oct. 16, 2017, in Cambridge, Mass.

Associated Press

By **DAVID BAUDER**
NEW YORK (AP) —

Rachel Maddow, MSNBC's most

popular personality, said Monday she will be taking a hiatus from her prime

time show until April to work on a new podcast and that a movie is being made of her first book and podcast about former Vice President Spiro Agnew.

"Change is good," she said on her show. "Change is absolutely terrifying, but in this case it's good."

She said she's going to help out with the movie of "Bag Man" on former President Richard Nixon's disgraced vice president, to be directed by Ben Stiller and produced by "Saturday Night Live" executive producer Lorne Michaels.

Maddow gave no details on her second podcast, being made for NBC Uni-

versal.

"I am super-excited to tell you about it when I have more to tell," said Maddow, who hosted her show from her home on Monday because she had been exposed to someone who had tested positive and shown symptoms of COVID-19.

Although she'll be off from her regular show starting on Friday, she's expected to appear during MSNBC's coverage of some major events, like President Joe Biden's State of the Union address. Ali Velshi, her most frequent substitute host, and other MSNBC personalities are expected to fill

in on the regular evening telecast.

Maddow's absence could be a glimpse into MSNBC's future. It has been widely reported that Maddow will step back from hosting her program every night as part of a new contract with the network, although MSNBC has never commented on that. Maddow hinted at it Monday by saying there will be "more hiatuses in the future."

Losing her on a regular basis could be a challenge for the network, which has seen its viewership slip from the highs of the 2020 presidential election campaign and its aftermath. □



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Embiid turns dominant season for 76ers into case for MVP

By DAN GELSTON

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Joel Embiid burst out of the 76ers locker room with wild enthusiasm, and the 7-footer about wiped out staff members as he pinballed down a corridor to the court. With Embiid sitting out the game, Philadelphia pulled off an overtime thriller against Memphis, and the All-Star wanted to celebrate with his teammates. The big man was just a bystander in this one. Embiid stood by like a well-heeled fan in the front row as he smiled and high-fived the Sixers on their way back to the locker room. Tyrese Maxey only moments earlier had about been swallowed up by the crowd and the rush of the Sixers after a high-flying layup sealed the Sixers' fifth straight win.

Even when he's off, Embiid is always in the mix for the Sixers.

"He's our MVP," Maxey said. That much around Philadelphia is certain.

Embiid is the first Sixer



Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid (21) in action during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Washington Wizards, Monday, Jan. 17, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

named an All-Star starter for five straight seasons since Allen Iverson, and he just might be the front-runner for NBA MVP as well.

The booming "MVP! MVP!" chants that Philly fans ser-

enaded him with each night could be certified fact by next opening night instead of simply a wishful melody. The biggest knock on Embiid, the No. 3 pick in the 2014 draft, over his career has

been conditioning and injury issues that have made his availability at times more fickle than durable. Through 38 games, Embiid has largely put those concerns — remember

the days of load management? — to rest.

He had a scheduled maintenance day off Monday, ending a streak of 21 straight games played, the second-longest stretch of his career. Embiid averaged 33.1 points during the streak to lift his season scoring average to 29.1 points per game, which ranked second in the league behind Kevin Durant's 29.3 points entering Tuesday.

Embiid did finish runner-up last season to Denver's Nikola Jokic in MVP voting. While the Denver star was a deserving winner, he played in 72 games and logged 2,488 minutes to Embiid's 51 games and 1,585 minutes. Monday marked Embiid's 12th missed game, nine of which he missed due to health and safety protocols. The last time he sat out was Dec. 13 and his play over the last six weeks shot him to the top as the +230 favorite to win the MVP award, according to FanDuel Sportsbook. □

MLB lockout talks to resume Tuesday as spring training nears

By RONALD BLUM

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball labor negotiations are set to resume Tuesday, just over two weeks before the scheduled start of a spring training that's threatened by a lockout.

The sport's ninth work stoppage began Dec. 2 after the expiration of a five-year labor contract, and the sides did not meet again on the central economic issues until Jan. 24, when players withdrew their proposal for more liberalized free agency.

Management responded the following day by withdrawing its proposal for more limited salary arbitration. Clubs also accepted

the union's framework to funnel additional money to pre-arbitration-eligible players from central revenue, offering a \$10 million pool based on awards and WAR. The union has asked for \$105 million for the group, usually about 30 players annually.

Tuesday's session will be the first on the central issues since then, and the sides don't agree on many economic proposals, leaving very little time to end the lockout and avoid disrupting the Feb. 16 scheduled start of spring training workouts. Players would need several days to travel to team complexes in Arizona and Florida, plus time to go

through COVID-19 protocols.

This is probably the last week to reach a deal that would allow a timely start to spring training. Owners are scheduled to meet from Feb. 8-10 in Orlando, Florida, making it less likely there could be negotiations over those days.

Given the need for at least three weeks of workouts, opening day on March 31 would be threatened if there is not an agreement by late February or early March.

Players want arbitration eligibility extended to those with at least two years of major-league service, its level from 1974-86. □



Major League Baseball deputy commissioner Dan Halem, center, arrives for a meeting in New York, Monday, Jan. 24, 2022, for the first in-person baseball negotiating session since the MLB lockout began. At far left is Patrick Houlihan, Senior Vice President & Deputy General Counsel, Labor Relations at Major League Baseball, and second from left is Colorado Rockies owner Dick Montfort.

Associated Press

Tom Brady retires after 22 seasons, 7 Super Bowl titles

By **ROB MAADDI**

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tom Brady, the most successful quarterback in NFL history, has retired after winning seven Super Bowls and setting numerous passing records in an unprecedented 22-year career.

"This is difficult for me to write, but here it goes: I am not going to make that competitive commitment anymore," Brady wrote in a lengthy post on Instagram. "I have loved my NFL career, and now it is time to focus my time and energy on other things that require my attention."

Brady has long stated his desire to spend more time with his wife, supermodel Gisele Bündchen, and three children despite still playing at the top of his game.

The 44-year-old Brady goes out after leading the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to a Super Bowl title last season and NFC South championship this season.

News of Brady's pending retirement leaked Saturday. His family and the Buccaneers denied that he had made a final decision, and he said Monday night on his SiriusXM podcast he wasn't ready to finalize his plans.

That came Tuesday morning.

"I've done a lot of reflecting the past week and have asked myself difficult questions," Brady said. "And I am so proud of what we have achieved. My teammates, coaches, fellow competitors, and fans deserve 100% of me, but right now, it's best I leave the field of play to the next generation of dedicated and committed athletes."

Brady thanked the Buccaneers organization, his teammates, ownership, general manager Jason Licht, coach Bruce Arians,



Tampa Bay Buccaneers tight end Rob Gronkowski, left, and quarterback Tom Brady (12) celebrate after the NFL Super Bowl 55 football game against the Kansas City Chiefs in Tampa, Fla., Feb. 7, 2021.

his trainer Alex Guerrero, agents Don Yee and Steve Dubin and his family in his nine-page post. He didn't mention the New England Patriots, where he spent his first 20 seasons and won six Super Bowls. Of course, Brady thanked the Patriots and coach Bill Belichick after he left the team to sign with the Buccaneers two years ago.

Brady said he's still figuring out how he'll spend his time, but he plans to be involved in his TB12 health and wellness company, Brady clothing line and NFT company.

"I know for sure I want to spend a lot of time giving to others and trying to enrich other people's lives, just as so many have done for me," he said.

Brady led the NFL in yards

passing (5,316), touchdowns (43), completions (485) and attempts (719) in 2021, but the Buccaneers lost at home to the Los Angeles Rams in the divisional round.

Brady leaves as the career leader in yards passing (84,520) and TDs (624). He's the only player to win more than five Super Bowls and was MVP of the game five times.

Widely considered the greatest quarterback to play the game, Brady won three NFL MVP awards, was a first-team All-Pro three times and was selected to the Pro Bowl 15 times. He was 243-73 in his career in the regular season and 35-12 in the playoffs.

"To finish a 22-year career while still performing at his peak was nothing short of

extraordinary," Licht said. "I wish we had more time with Tom, but I understand and respect his decision to leave the game in order to spend more time with his family."

Brady went from 199th pick in the 2000 draft to replacing an injured Drew Bledsoe in 2001 and leading New England to a Super Bowl victory over the heavily favored Rams that season. Brady led the Patriots to consecutive Super Bowl titles following the 2003-04 seasons. No team has since repeated as champions. But New England wouldn't win another one for a decade, twice losing to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl, including a 17-14 defeat on Feb. 3, 2008, that prevented the Patriots from completing a perfect season.

Brady earned his fourth ring after the 2014 season. Two years later, in the biggest Super Bowl comeback, he led the Patriots out of a 28-3 deficit in the third quarter against Atlanta to win in overtime for No. 5. Brady got his sixth championship

when New England beat the Rams following the 2018 season.

He joined the Buccaneers in 2020 amid a pandemic, instantly transforming a franchise that hadn't won a playoff game in 18 years. His buddy Rob Gronkowski came out of retirement to join him and they helped the Buccaneers become the first team to play in a Super Bowl in its stadium.

"He set a standard and helped create a culture that took our team to the mountaintop," Arians said. Brady reached the playoffs 19 times, won 18 division titles, went 10-4 in conference championships and 7-3 in Super Bowls.

After starting his first game on Sept. 30, 2001, Brady was under center for every game except when he suffered a season-ending knee injury in Week 1 in 2008 and the first four games in 2016 when he sat out a suspension because of the deflated footballs scandal.

"An incredible competitor and leader, his stellar career is remarkable for its longevity but also for the sustained excellence he displayed year after year," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a statement.

Known for his work ethic, intense exercise regimen and strict diet, Brady was better with age.

After turning 37, Brady won four Super Bowls and was 17-4 in the playoffs. He was 95-30, completed 65.2% of his passes for 35,371 yards, 265 TDs, 69 interceptions and 100.2 passer rating in the regular season in those eight seasons.

"I have always believed the sport of football is an 'all-in' proposition — if a 100% competitive commitment isn't there, you won't succeed, and success is what I love so much about our game," Brady said. "There is a physical, mental, and emotional challenge every single day that has allowed me to maximize my highest potential. And I have tried my very best these past 22 years. There are no shortcuts to success on the field or in life." □



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